

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	
Meeting Date	9 February 2004
Prepared By	Sara Anne Daines ECD Director
Approved By	Richard Finn City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution of Support for Maryland Main Street Application
Background	<p>The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development recently announced its 2004 round of applications for Main Street designation. The program, patterned after the National Main Street program provides valuable technical support and training to selected communities, assisting them in improving the economic vitality, physical appearance, and image of their traditional downtown. A total of five communities are to be selected this year. Applications are due March 1, 2004.</p> <p>The Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) has expressed its interest in the Maryland and Washington DC Main Street designations. Its Executive Board is prepared to apply for both programs.</p> <p>The application for the Maryland Main Street program, while comprehensive, is fairly straightforward. It requires a three year financial commitment from both the local municipality and the business community. A town meeting is required. We have met with OTBA's Executive Board to review the application and to discuss how to proceed. The Association has agreed to assume primary responsibility for the application though HCD staff will assist in the development of several sections and in the coordination of the required town meeting and council resolution.</p> <p>The proposed application was considered by the City Council at its February 2nd worksession.</p>
Policy	To develop viable economic development initiatives which reflect shared values and support efforts of the local business community
Fiscal Impact	<p>Total \$75,000 - expended over a period of three years.</p> <p>The City Council included in its FY04 budget, \$25,000 in matching funds in support of the Old Takoma Business Association and designation of the area as a Maryland Main Street. An additional \$50,000, to be disbursed over the next two years, has been requested and, if supported, would be included in the required resolution.</p>
Attachments	Maryland Main Street Program - Fact Sheets Resolution of Support - DRAFT
Recommendation	To adopt resolution of support for establishment of proposed Main Street and to commit required financial support

Introduced By:

Resolution 2004-

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OLD TOWN/TAKOMA
JUNCTION AS A MARYLAND MAIN STREET**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Takoma Park recognizes the importance of Old Town / Takoma Junction as it relates to the economic health and quality of life of the community; and

WHEREAS, the continued improvement, revitalization and development of Old Town / Takoma Junction is a local economic development goal; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Main Street program has generated community-wide interest and support and is believed to be an effective means of furthering local efforts to preserve the unique character of Takoma Park and to stimulate economic development efforts in Old Town / Takoma Junction; and

WHEREAS, the Old Takoma Business Association wishes to be designated as a Maryland Main Street and has the Council's full support of this effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Takoma Park City Council does hereby

Section 1 Endorse the concept of a local Main Street program and the submission of an application to the State of Maryland for the designation of the Old Town/Takoma Junction area as a Maryland Main Street.

Section 2 Agree to participate in the development and financial support of the local Main Street program for a minimum of three years.

Section 3 Pledge financial support in the amount of \$25,000 for three years (FY04 through FY06) with funds allocated exclusively for the local Main Street program.

Adopted this ____ day of February 2004.

Kathy Porter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine E. Waters, CMC/AAE
City Clerk

Voting For:

Voting Against:

Absent:

Abstaining: